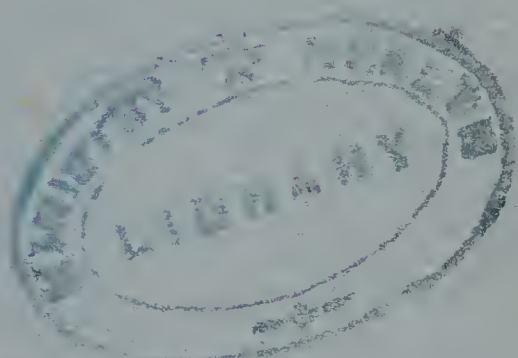


C 44126 NORTHFLEET

Heath

Northfleet Urban District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1945.

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

68033



NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ended December, 1945.

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
(Medical Officer of Health).

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report of the Public Health conditions of the district for the year ended December, 1945.

The report is, on the instructions of the Ministry of Health, again presented in an abbreviated form this year.

I would take this opportunity of thanking the Council for continued interest and support.

Your obedient Servant,

M. F. McDONNELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor J. HAYNES (Chairman).

„ S. LAWRENCE.
„ Mrs. A. A. WHITE.
„ Mrs. G. S. LANE.
„ Mrs. B. E. BARKER.
„ Mrs. V. G. WESTCOTT, J.P.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SUB-COMMITTEE.

All members of the Health Committee, together with the following who attended in a consultative capacity :—

Mesdames HUMPHREY, HUNTLEY, SMITH and WHITCHELO.

Clerk :

Mr. W. G. FUTCHER.

Solicitor :

Mr. F. W. JONES.

Medical Officer of Health :

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Maternity and Child Welfare Officer :

JAMES CRAWFORD, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspectors :

J. S. COWPLAND, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector.
* A. BARNETT, M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector.
A. J. MUNFORD, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Health Visitor :

Miss E. MARTIN, S.R.N., S.C.M., A.R.San.I.

*Resigned July, 1945.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (as constituted at 30th June, 1935) acres (.393 Tidal Water)					.....	3,770
Population (Census 1931)					.....	16,080
,, (Estimated 1945)					.....	16,260
Number of inhabited houses (31st March, 1945)					.....	4,922
Number of new houses erected year ended 31st December, 1945					.....	1
Number of families or separate occupiers (1931)					.....	3,723
31st December, (1945)					.....	£109,473
Rateable value ,, ,, (1944)					.....	£111,347
,, ,, (1943)					.....	£111,126
(1945)					.....	£435
Sum represented by a penny rate (1944)					.....	£463
(1943)					.....	£457.7
(1945)					.....	299
Number of Births (1944)					.....	336
(1943)					.....	269
					Northfleet.	England & Wales.
					Live.	Still.
					Live.	Still.
(1945)					18.7	0.56
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (1944)					21.0	0.62
(1943)					17.0	0.44
(1945)						
Number of illegitimate births (1944)					.....	8
(1943)					.....	8
(1945)						189
Number of Deaths (1944)					.....	167
(1943)					.....	191
					Northfleet.	England & Wales.
(1945)					11.8	11.4
Death Rate per 1,000 population (1944)					10.4	11.6
(1943)					12.0	12.1
Total					M.	F.
Live.	Legitimate	283	127	156	Birth rate per 1,000 of the	
					estimated resident population	
					18.0	
	Illegitimate	16	9	7		
Stillbirths	Legitimate	8	3	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live and	
					still) births	
					29.2	
	Illegitimate	1	1	—		
Deaths	.....	189	107	82	Death rate per 1,000 of the	
					estimated resident population	
					11.6	
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—						
All infants per 1,000 live births					.....	56.9
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births					.....	56.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					.....	62.5
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					.....	35
,, ,, Measles (all ages)					.....	0
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)					.....	0
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)					.....	6

CAUSES OF DEATH IN NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT, 1945.

Causes of Death.							Male.	Female.
All causes							107	82
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers						—	—
2	Cerebro-spinal fever						—	—
3	Scarlet fever						—	—
4	Whooping Cough						—	—
5	Diphtheria						—	—
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system						4	2
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis						3	1
8	Syphilitic diseases						1	—
9	Influenza						—	—
10	Measles						—	—
11	Infantile Paralysis, etc.						—	—
12	Ac : inf : enceph :						—	—
13	Cancer of mouth, etc.: (m) uterus (f)						3	3
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum						3	4
15	Cancer of breast						—	2
16	Cancer of other sites						11	9
17	Diabetes						2	1
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions						5	14
19	Heart disease						26	20
20	Other disease of circ. system						2	1
21	Bronchitis						14	6
22	Pneumonia						1	1
23	Other resp. diseases						2	—
24	Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum						3	—
25	Diarrhoea under 2 years						3	3
26	Appendicitis						—	—
27	Other digestive diseases						2	3
28	Nephritis						5	1
29	Puerperal Pyrexia						—	—
30	Other maternal causes						—	—
31	Premature birth						1	—
32	Congenital malformation: birth injury, etc.						6	2
33	Suicide						—	—
34	Road traffic accidents						—	—
35	Other violent causes						2	—
36	All other causes						8	9

BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN
INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1945.

PROVISIONAL FIGURES BASED ON WEEKLY AND QUARTERLY RETURNS.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns Populations including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	Adminis- trative County London.	Northfleet.
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Rates per 1,000 Population.

Births :—					
Live	16.1	19.1	19.2	15.7	18.7
Still	0.46	0.58	0.53	0.40	0.56
Deaths :—					
All causes	11.4	13.5	12.3	13.8	11.8
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Influenza	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.00
Notifications :—					
Scarlet Fever	1.89	2.02	2.03	1.57	0.5
Diphtheria	0.46	0.52	0.56	0.31	0.06
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid					
Fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	0.25	0.28	0.24	0.31	0.12
Pneumonia	0.87	1.03	0.72	0.78	0.31
Cerebral Spinal					
Fever	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.00
Measles	11.67	10.89	11.19	9.03	8.5
Whooping Cough	1.64	1.65	1.47	1.25	2.5

Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

Deaths under					
1 year of age	46	54	43	53	56.85
Deaths from					
Diarrhoea and					
Enteritis under					
2 years of age.....	5.6	7.8	4.5	7.6	20.06

Rates per 1,000 total Births (Live and Still)

(a) NOTIFICATIONS :					
Puerperal Fever)					
Puerperal Pyrexia)	9.93	12.65	8.81	15.87	0.00

(b) MATERNAL MORTALITY :

	No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Others
England & Wales	0.25	0.08	0.24	1.22
Northfleet	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Midwives.

This service is under the control of the County Council who have appointed the following as County Midwives :—

Mrs. A. R. BROWNRIDGE	27, Cobham Street, Gravesend. Tel. : 1686 (District Organiser).
Mrs. D. M. KEMP	67, Broomfield Road, Swanscombe. Tel. : Gravesend 4121.
Miss J. MERSEY (Temporary)	34, Springhead Road

Other midwife practising in the district :—

Mrs. F. E. HOLLOWAY	43, Mitchell Avenue.
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MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Average weekly attendance at all M. and C.W. Centres	153
Total attendances of children during the year	.....	.....	7,949
New attendances	.....	.....	272

Infant Welfare Centres.

(a) Total number of attendances at all Centres during the year :—			
(i) By children under 1 year of age	.....	.....	3,162
(ii) By children between the ages of 1 and 5 years	.....	.....	726
Total	.....	.....	3,888
(b) Total number of children who attended the Centres for the first time during the year, and who on the date of their first attendance were :—			
(i) Under 1 year of age	.....	.....	262
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	.....	.....	21
(c) Total number of children who attended at the Centres during the year and who, at the end of the year were :—			
(i) Under 1 year of age	.....	.....	196
(ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	.....	.....	223

Ante-Natal Clinics.

(a) Number of clinics provided and maintained by the Council	.....	.....	1
(b) Total number of attendances by expectant mothers at all clinics during the year	.....	.....	68
(c) Total number of expectant mothers who attended the clinics during the year	.....	.....	50

Maternity and Nursing Homes.—There are no Maternity or Nursing Homes in the area under the control of the Council.

Maternal Mortality.—The County Medical Officer of Health co-operates with me in undertaking any necessary investigations in connection with maternal deaths.

The following arrangements have been made by the Council :—

- (1) Difficult cases of labour are admitted to the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital.
- (2) Cases of Puerperal Sepsis are admitted to Bow Arrow Hospital.
- (3) Consultant Gynaecologist available if required.
- (4) Ante-natal and other clinics provided by the Council.

These are sufficient for the needs of the district.

Ante-Natal Services.—The Council have established an ante-natal clinic but attendances, despite every encouragement, do not reach the standard which the service deserves.

Post Natal Services.—In the course of her duties the Health Visitor advises any mother who is not progressing satisfactorily to attend for post-natal examination.

Such cases are examined at the ante-natal session and the number does not warrant the institution of separate sessions.

Home Helps.—A scheme for the provision of Home Helps and Domestic Helps was introduced in the latter part of 1944.

Dental Treatment.—It will be remembered that the Council have entered into an agreement with the Kent Education Committee for the utilisation of their dental service for the treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and children under school age.

Records.—The records maintained in relation to the Council's maternity and child welfare services are satisfactory in every respect and are at the disposal of any medical practitioner who may desire to consult them with reference to any particular case.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

The following action has been taken :—

- (1) Space has been provided on the notification of births cards to obtain information as to weight at birth (when this is less than $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.).
- (2) Every effort is made to provide a separate bedroom for the mother and infant.
- (3) The Health Visitor and Midwives have given particular attention to the babies.
- (4) Home Helps are available.
- (5) Institutional care is available for some selected cases at the local hospital.
- (6) Special forms of transport available to convey babies to hospital.
- (7) The closest liaison is maintained between the hospital and Welfare Authority.

**SECTION 206 PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.
NURSING OF CHILDREN FOR REWARD.**

At present there is one name on the register. The Health Visitor visits the child regularly, and has found the home satisfactory.

**WAR TIME NURSERY
“ Woodfield,” 135, London Road, Northfleet.**

Since the opening of the Nursery in 1942, 35,632 attendances were made by the children.

The Nursery was taken over by the K.E.C. as a Nursery School in April, 1946.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Bow Arrow Hospital provide ambulances for the removal of infectious disease cases to hospital. St. John Ambulance Brigade provide an ambulance for accidents and general purposes.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Through the Northfleet Diamond Jubilee Samaritan Fund, the services of one trained nurse are available for general nursing. The Fund is an entirely voluntary organisation. During 1945 the Nurse paid 2,702 visits to the Sick Poor in Northfleet. Hon. Secretary: Mr. W. P. Grant.

RELIEVING OFFICER.

Mr. W. T. MAINWARING, Council Offices, Northfleet.
Telephone—Gravesend 1274.

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS AND VACCINATION OFFICER.

D. A. GOUGH, 36, Springhead Road, Northfleet.
Mondays 2—4 p.m.
Fridays 5—6 p.m.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES.

**Minor Ailment, Aural, Child Guidance, Dental, Ophthalmic, Orthopaedic
and Speech Clinics.**

(a) Minor Ailment Clinics.

Gravesend, Windmill Street.

Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 9.30 a.m.

Denton
Northfleet, West Kent House,
Station Road.

Every Tuesday and Friday, 10.30 a.m.
Health Visitor attends every morning from 9.0 to 10.0 and Medical Officer on 2nd and 4th Saturday morning in each month.

Dartford, County Hospital.

Health Visitor attends every morning from 9.0 to 10.0 and Medical Officer every Saturday morning.

- (b) **Aural Clinics.***
 Gravesend, Gravesend Hospital. E.N.T. Surgeon attends 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoon in the month and Aural Nurse on 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesday mornings.
 Dartford, County Hospital. E.N.T. Surgeon attends 3rd Wednesday and 4th Thursday afternoon in the month and the Aural Nurse on the 2nd and 4th Monday afternoons.
- (c) **Child Guidance Clinics.***
 Crayford, Woodside Road, Every Wednesday afternoon and all day Bexleyheath. Thursday and Friday.
 (2) Maidstone, Week Street Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday Congregational Church. all day.
- (d) **Dental Clinics.***
 Northfleet, West Kent House, Every Monday, Thursday and Friday Station Road. all day.
 Gravesend, 5, Manor Road. Every day.
 In addition temporary clinics are held at Stone, Bean, Hartley, Longfield, Meopham, Southfleet, Fawkham, Higham, Shorne and Cobham.
- (e) **Ophthalmic Clinics.***
 (1) Northfleet, West Kent House, Every Thursday afternoon. Station Road.
 Dartford, County Hospital. 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Wednesday in the month all day.
 3rd Monday in the month all day.
 Every Tuesday morning.
 (1) Gravesend, School Clinic. Every Thursday afternoon.
- (f) **Orthopaedic Clinics.**
 Dartford, County Hospital.* 1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesday afternoon in the month.
 Gravesend Borough. Referred to Orthopaedic Surgeon at Gravesend Hospital, by arrangement.
- (g) **Speech Clinic*.**
 (2) Dartford, County Hospital. Every Tuesday all day.

- (1) It is hoped to transfer this Clinic to the Gravesend Hospital in the near future.
 (2) The Committee has acquired new premises at "Elmsleigh," 118, Maidstone Road, Chatham, and patients who formerly had to attend these clinics will attend at Chatham.

* Children should not be sent to these clinics without previous appointments. Heads of schools who are seeking *emergency* dental treatment for the relief of pain for any child should telephone to the Divisional Education Officer in order to ascertain whether the dental surgeon is in attendance at the clinic. If a clinic is not being held, the Divisional Education Officer will advise as to the name and address of the nearest dentist whose services have been made available under the Committee's scheme for emergency dental treatment.

MENTAL WELFARE.

Information on matters of mental welfare can be obtained from the Kent Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare, 70, King Street, Maidstone (Telephone 3889).

BLIND PERSONS.

Information on matters affecting the blind, or those threatened with blindness, can be obtained from the Secretary of the Kent County Association for the Blind, 15, Ashford Road, Maidstone (Telephone 3717).

HOSPITALS.

Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, Gravesend.—Serves the District, and contains 168 beds, of which 23 are reserved for children's cots and 18 beds and cots for maternity cases.

Day and Time of Attendance for Registration at Out-Patient Department.

GRAVESEND AND NORTH KENT HOSPITAL. TIME-TABLE.

MONDAY.

11.00 a.m.	Traumatic Clinic	.....	.....	Mr. M. Landau
11.30 a.m.	Ear, Nose and Throat	.....	.....	Mr. C. G. E. Plumstead.

TUESDAY.

9.30 a.m.	Dental	.....	.....	Mr. F. T. Wilkinson
11.30 a.m.	Surgical Out-Patients and Varicose Veins	.....	.....	Mr. K. W. D. Hartley
2.30 p.m.	Ante-Natal	.....	.....	Mr. F. S. Horrocks
3.00 p.m.	Gynaecological	.....	.....	Mr. F. S. Horrocks

WEDNESDAY.

9.30 a.m.	Fracture Clinic	.....	.....	Mr. M. Landau
10.00 a.m.	C.O.2.			
1.00 p.m.	K.C.C. Chest Clinic	.....	.....	{ Dr. Thompson Dr. McGorry
3.00 p.m.	Psychiatric Clinic	.....	.....	Dr. S. W. Hardwick

THURSDAY.

9.00 a.m.	Ophthalmic	.....	.....	Mr. W. E. Heath
10.30 a.m.	Orthopaedic	.....	.....	Mr. J. S. Batchelor
12.00 noon	Electro-medical	.....	.....	Mr. K. W. D. Hartley

FRIDAY.

8.30 a.m.	Dental	.....	.....	Mr. A. L. Wraight
9.30 a.m.	Fracture Clinic	Mr. M. Landau

SATURDAY.

11.00 a.m.	Medical Out-Patients	Dr. J. Crawford
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COUNTY HOSPITAL, DARTFORD.

Out-Patient Clinics.

Fracture Clinic	Thursday, 11 a.m.
Dental Clinic	.....	Thursday, 9-30—11.30 a.m. by appointment.
Ante-Natal Clinic	.....	Monday, Thursday and Saturday 2.30 p.m.,
V.D. Clinic	.....	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday— Males 5—6 p.m. Females 1.30—4.30 p.m.
X-ray and Massage	.....	Monday—Friday, 9.30 a.m.—4.30 p.m. Psyiotherapist Dr. Rattray, Wednesday, 1.30 p.m.
Psychological Clinic	.....	2nd and 4th Tuesdays in month at 2 p.m. Dr. Robbins
Gynaecological O.P.	.....	1st Monday in month at 2 p.m. Mr. M. Donaldson.
Orthopaedic O.P.	.....	1st, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays in month (Mr. Batten).
Ophthalmic O.P.	.....	2nd and 4th Mondays in month 2 p.m. Dr. F. O. Walker. Wednesday 2 p.m., Dr. D. Mills, M.D.
Medical O.P.	.....	Friday 2 p.m. by appointment, Dr. John Lorber, B.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.A.
Surgical O.P.	.....	Wednesday 11 a.m., Mr. Meyrick Thomas, F.R.C.S.
Dr. Cochrane, O.P.	.....	Friday 11 a.m. (General Cases).
T.B. Clinic	.....	(Artificial pneumothorax) held in the Hospital for the Dartford T.B. Clinic, Overy Street, Dartford, Fridays 10 a.m., Dr. Butterworth.
Skin Clinic.	.....	Dr. Ockwell, M.D., F.R.C.S., Tuesday 10—12 noon, by appointment.

DISPENSARIES.

Tuberculosis.

13, New Road, Rochester Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, Gravesend.	Tuesdays 2-3 p.m.	Fridays, 9.30-10.30 a.m.
	Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.	

Venereal Diseases.

36, New Road, Rochester. 'Phone Chatham 3343.	MEN	Tuesdays	2—5.30 p.m.
		Thursdays	11—1 p.m.
	WOMEN	Tuesdays	1.30—5.30 p.m.
		Thursdays	11—1 p.m.
22, Cobham Street, Gravesend 'Phone Gravesend 1061	MEN	Tuesdays	11—12.30 p.m.
		Thursdays	4—5 p.m.
	WOMEN	Tuesdays	1—2 p.m.
		Thursdays	2—3.30 p.m.

The undermentioned figures show the number of cases suffering from V.D. attending Rochester and Gravesend V.D. Clinics from Northfleet Urban District :—

NEW PATIENTS.	MALE.	FEMALE.	TOTAL.
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Syphilis	1	1	2
Soft Sore	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	3	5	8
Non-Venereal	9	9	18

13	15	28
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(Of total of 28—3 Men and 3 Women attended Rochester Clinic from Northfleet)
Total number of new patients from all districts served (Gravesend Clinic) 262

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following temporary arrangements have been made for the reception and treatment of cases of infectious diseases :—

Smallpox to Dislingbury Hospital, (Tel. Maidstone 4321).

Other cases to Dartford (Bow Arrow) Isolation Hospital (Tel. Dartford 3369).

Scarlet Fever.

Cases notified	6
Cases removed to Hospital	6
Percentage of cases removed	100.0

Diphtheria.

Cases notified	1
Cases removed to Hospital	1
Percentage of cases removed	100.0

Enteric Fever.

Cases notified	Nil.
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Sonne Dysentery.

Cases notified	23
Cases removed to Hospital	2
Percentage of cases removed	8.7

Tuberculosis.

Statement of particulars appearing on the register of notifications of cases of Tuberculosis for the year ended 31st December, 1945 :—

	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Pul and Non-Pul. Totals
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
(a) No. of cases of Tuberculosis on the register at the commencement of the year	67	46	113	15	14	29	142
(b) No. of cases remaining on the register at the end of the year	63	39	102	13	10	23	125
(c) No. of cases notified during the year	11	2	13	2	1	3	16
(d) No. of deaths during the year	6	3	9	—	1	1	10

The following are the ages and occupations of those persons notified during the year :—

Age			Age		
M.	F.	Occupation	M.	F.	Occupation
3		Under School age.	24		R.A.F. (Papermaking).
4		Under school age.	25		Merchant Seaman.
8		School age.		29	Housewife (deceased).
9		School age (deceased).	31		Army.
	19	Paper sack sewer (deceased).	31		Tug-skipper prior to R. Navy.
21		Labourer.	44		Cement worker.
	22	Wireless valve maker.		50	Housewife (deceased).
23		M. Navy engineer.	50		Royal Navy.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Clinics are held daily at the Council Offices from 10-11 a.m. and twice weekly at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic in the afternoons from 3-4 p.m.

PRESENT POSITION.

	Under 5 years.	Between 5 and 15 years.
Percentage immunised	44.0	71.0
Total number of children immunised (Estimated)	999	2140

Scabies.

During the year treatment for persons suffering from Scabies was provided at Brookvale Depot and 148 persons and contacts were treated, 5 cases were treated at their homes.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Reports received on samples taken from various taps on the Gravesend and Milton Water Works Co. supply to the area.

Date of Samples 1945.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar		Remarks.
	37°C.	at 22°C.	
3rd January	0	0	Good Waters
	0	0	" "
24th January	0	5	" "
	0	0	" "
21st February	0	0	" "
	0	0	" "
28th March	0	0	" "
	0	0	" "
2nd May	0	0	" "
	1	0	" "
23rd May	0	0	" "
	0	0	" "
27th June	0	0	" "
	0	0	" "
25th July	0	0	" "
	0	0	" "
5th September	0	0	" "
	0	0	" "
3rd October	0	1	" "
	0	0	" "
14th November	0	0	" "
	0	0	" "
19th December	0	0	" "
	0	0	" "

Proportion of dwelling houses and population supplied from Public Water Mains :—

Direct to houses 99%.

By means of standpipe 1%.

The supply is sufficient and satisfactory in every way. No Plumbo-solvent action.

GRAVESEND AND MILTON WATERWORKS COMPANY.

Report on two samples of water received from here labelled :—

No. 1 “Town Supply, taken from tap on main, Southwood’s Dairy, Vale Road, Northfleet. 16/5/45.”

No. 2. “Gravesend & Milton Water Company’s Supply, taken at Pumping Station, Downs Road, Northfleet. 19/12/45.”

These water were of excellent organic quality.

Analytical Details.

					Parts per 100,000.	
					No. 1.	No. 2.
Total solid residue	.....	.....	.....	.....	36.0	39.0
Chlorine	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.8	1.8
Free Ammonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.0	0.0
Albuminoid Ammonia	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.0	0.0
Nitrogen as Nitrates	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.4	0.2
Oxygen absorbed, $\frac{1}{4}$ hour at 80° F.	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.004	0.005
Oxygen absorbed, 4 hours at 80° F.	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.008	0.013
Nitrites	.....	.....	.....	.....	Absent	Absent

CIRCULAR 2831—PROMOTION OF CLEANLINESS, GOOD HABITS AND THE ELIMINATION OF VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

Part of the Council’s depot at Brook Vale was adapted for the cleansing of verminous persons. Lethane is used in cases of infestation of head. Two members of the Council Staff were trained for the purpose and treatment is carried out under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health and the Health Visitor.

All children in its area are inspected and examined at regular intervals by the Council’s staff and cases requiring treatment are referred to the Centre.

Talks on the subject are given periodically.

Clothing is disinfested by steam disinfector whilst patients are undergoing treatment.

During 1945 148 persons were treated.

Persons requiring institutional treatment are conveyed to the Kent County Hospitals.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

All milkshops, dairies, bakehouses and workshops were visited at least twice during the year by the Sanitary Inspectors and myself.

MILK SUPPLY.

Thirty-two samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, three of which were reported unsatisfactory. Visits were made to the dairies concerned and suggestions put forward for improving the quality of the milk.

Eighteen samples of milk as supplied to schools were taken. All except one of these proved to be satisfactory.

Milk retailed locally is produced in other districts.

Twenty-five samples of milk were submitted for biological examination. In one case tubercle bacilli was present.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

This part of the Act is administered by the County Council, and I am indebted to Mr. W. A. Elkington, County Inspector, Dartford, for the following particulars of samples taken in the district during the year:—

Description of sample.	Samples taken.	Result.
Milk	42	Genuine
Ground Cinnamon	I	,,
Peas	I	,,
Mincemeat	I	,,
Pickled Cabbage	I	,,
Oats	I	,,
Lemon Squash	I	,,
Liquorice Powder	I	,,
Boracic Acid Ointment	I	,,
Lemon Essence	I	,,
Lard	I	,,
Castor Sugar	I	,,
Malt Vinegar	I	,,
Tomato Soup	I	,,
Pork Sausage Meat	I	,,
Lime Squash	I	,,
Shrimps	I	,,
Honey	I	,,
T.T. Paste	I	,,
Mustard	2	,,
Pepper	I	,,
Semolina	I	,,
Soya Flour	I	,,
Dates	I	,,
Icing Sugar	I	,,
Curry Powder	I	,,
Whiskey	I	,,
Creme de Menthe	I	,,
Hollands	I	,,
Pale Sherry	I	,,
Ruby Port	I	,,

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

Articles Condemned.	Amount.
Potted and preserved meat	21 lbs.
Tinned milk	10½ lbs.
Oranges	1,670
Beef	46½ lbs.
Pork	275 lbs.
Bacon	6 lbs.
Suet	7 lbs.
Eggs (Shell)	432

SEWAGE.

Frequent samples of sewage effluent from the works are submitted to the County Analyst, and the following table shows the results expressed in parts per 100,000. In each case the County Analyst stated the effluent was suitable for discharge.

No. of sample	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Date of sample	17/1/45	28/2/45	28/3/45	2/5/45	30/5/45	4/7/45	5/9/45	14/11/45	12/12/45
Total dissolved solids	63.00	100.5	68.00	86.0	93.0	94.0	87.0	66.0	57.0
Total suspended solids	8.75	2.35	1.5	4.5	13.0	8.0	3.0	3.5	4.5
Organic suspended solids	6.00	1.15	1.25	3.5	9.25	6.0	2.95	3.42	3.0
Chlorine	11.3	18.2	11.1	18.6	18.3	17.1	15.8	13.0	10.5
Free ammonia	1.16	3.06	2.04	5.10	4.96	3.4	4.28	4.22	3.40
Albuminoid ammonia	0.48	0.76	0.34	1.09	0.95	0.54	0.61	0.204	0.48
Oxygen absorbed (acid permanganate) $\frac{1}{4}$ hour	0.656	0.941	0.573	0.58	1.38	0.663	1.0	0.864	0.816
Oxygen absorbed (acid permanganate) 4 hours	1.448	1.880	1.297	1.19	2.94	1.428	1.84	1.411	1.581
Nitrogen as nitrates	1.67	2.5	.3	2.5	1.1	2.5	0.0	0.1	0.0
Nitrogen as nitrites	present	present	present	present	present	present	present	trace	present
Dissolved oxygen requirement.....		Exceeds		Exceeds	Exceeds				Exceeds
in five days	2.681	7	1.570	4	5	2.345	3.37	2.023	5

HOUSING.

An acute housing shortage exists in the District. Some 1,200 applications are now on the waiting list for Council houses, of which number 50% represent persons who do not live in separate dwellings.

The structural condition of the working class houses is deteriorating rapidly due to lack of normal maintenance repair brought about by war-time restrictions of labour and materials. Attention is drawn to the lack of sufficient building operatives in the District to ensure that houses are kept in habitable repair. It is suggested that the repair of houses should be given the same priority of materials and labour as will the erection of new houses.

Post-war Housing Plans.

The Council's building programme for the first two years comprises the provision of approximately 400 permanent and 50 temporary dwellings. A survey of the District is being conducted to ascertain the condition of houses as related to slum clearance and abatement of overcrowding, the results of such survey to be the basis of a future report.

For details of inspections see Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINIC AND ANTE-NATAL CLINIC FOR THE YEAR 1945.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am please to inform you of the continuing success of the work of your Child Welfare Clinic in the past year.

In each succeeding year, more and more use is being taken of the facilities you have provided for the children in the district.

Since my last report the Istead Rise session has grown up, while the Perry Street Clinic has been a great success since its inception. It is most gratifying to note that the large numbers attending the latter Centre have in no way detracted from the attendances at the Council Offices Clinic. The ample accommodation you so wisely provided at the Council Offices Annexe just prior to the war is fully taxed and I look forward to the time when you will be able to provide similar and permanent accommodation in the expanding area around Wombwell Hall district to meet the growing needs of this area.

I am most pleased to inform you that the children attending your Welfare Sessions have a very excellent standard of health, and, further, we are now seeing more than 86% of the children born within the area. This is a most gratifying figure. The total attendances for the year were 7,939.

During the same period 68 expectant mothers have attended for examination and advice.

In our contacts we take every opportunity to advise vaccination and immunise all children against diphtheria—a service which your Medical Officer of Health has instituted and which is working so successfully.

From the number of attendances you will realise how essential the services of a clerk were to this department, and in this respect we were most fortunate in having Mrs. Mitchell who was of great help to Miss Martin, freeing her from much clerical work so that she has been able to get more contact in the house visiting.

Of your Nurse's work, I cannot speak too highly; Miss Martin's enthusiasm knows no bounds. Very many mothers in this area owe her a deep debt of gratitude for her services so ungrudgingly given.

To the Ladies of the Committee, I am likewise very grateful for their unfailing help.

I take this opportunity of thanking you for your co-operation and support.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES CRAWFORD, M.B.

REPORT OF THE HEALTH VISITOR FOR THE YEAR 1945.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report of the work done during the year 1945.

Infant Welfare.

Ante-Natal Visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	67
Babies 0—1 year (First visits)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	321
„ 0—1 „ (Subsequent visits)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	491
„ 1—5 years (Routine visits)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,053
„ 0—5 „ (Special visits)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	33
Visits <i>re</i> Home Helps	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22

Infant Welfare Centres.

COUNCIL OFFICES ANNEXE.—The attendances at this clinic have shown a steady increase and it has been necessary to re-organise the department in order to deal with such numbers in the limited accommodation.

PERRY STREET CLINIC.—The All Saints' Parish Hall has been used as a Welfare Centre since April. Conditions are not entirely satisfactory and we are seeking other temporary accommodation in order that we may continue this popular centre in more suitable surroundings.

ISTEAD RISE.—In September, Mrs. Excelby moved away from the area and the Centre was in danger of closing through lack of accommodation. We were fortunate in finding a home with Mrs. Stephens of “Keston,” Wrotham Road, Istead Rise. Mrs. Stephens gives us every facility and we hope to continue with the progress already made.

Foster Children.

One foster child remains on the register.

Adoption of Children.

Five children have been adopted in the area, and contact has been maintained with them all.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Every effort is made to encourage parents to avail themselves of the facilities provided.

Evacuation.

All children under five years of age returning to this area were contacted and given particulars of the services available to them, emphasis being laid on Diphtheria Immunisation.

Sale of Foods.

The increase of work in this department is shown by the following table :—

Year.	Total Value of Foods Sold.
1942	£588
1943	£874
1944	£1,104
1945	£1,577

In addition, the distribution of Vitamins and National Dried Milk according to the Government Scheme is administered by the department.

Ladies Committee.

With the opening of the Perry Street Centre and the re-organisation of work at the Council Offices annexe an appeal was made for more voluntary help. I have to record my sincere appreciation of the response to that appeal and thank the ladies for their regular attendance at the Centres, without which it would be impossible to give satisfactory service to the mothers.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

EDITH L. MARTIN.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1945.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1945 of work carried out under the Public Health, Housing, Factories and Food and Drugs Acts, etc.

Investigation was carried out of all cases of infectious diseases, disinfection of all bedding, clothing and premises, inspection under the Factory and Workshops Act, inspection of foods, sampling of milk and water, etc., investigation of complaints, interviewing builders and owners of property concerning sanitary work. Other duties are clerical work, in connection with the above and administration and supervision of the Cleansing Department. During the year the administration of the house-letting department was undertaken.

Number of complaints received during the year	.....	.....	.....	410
Total number of visits made	.....	.....	.....	3,015
Preliminary Notices served	.....	.....	.....	207
„ „ „ complied with	.....	.....	.....	181
Statutory Notices served	.....	.....	.....	43
„ „ „ complied with	.....	.....	.....	36

Verbal notice only was given on 55 occasions.

Visits made by Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1945.

First visits, Public Health Act, 1936	.....	.....	.....	561
Re-visits, Public Health Act, 1936	.....	.....	.....	934
Infectious disease enquiries	.....	.....	.....	130
Inspections of verminous premises	.....	.....	.....	43
Visits in connection with verminous persons	.....	.....	.....	78
Water supply and subsequent visits	.....	.....	.....	37
Drainage inspections	.....	.....	.....	91
Drains tested	.....	.....	.....	12
Visits regarding cesspools	.....	.....	.....	23
Housing Act visits and revisits	.....	.....	.....	54
Moveable dwelling inspections	.....	.....	.....	3
Rats and mice primary visits	.....	.....	.....	92
Rats and mice subsequent visits	.....	.....	.....	75
Factories visited	.....	.....	.....	26
Bakehouses—basement	.....	.....	.....	7
Bakehouses—ground level	.....	.....	.....	3
Food premises	.....	.....	.....	63
Dairies and milkshops	.....	.....	.....	18
Milk sampling	.....	.....	.....	43
Water sampling	.....	.....	.....	35
Sewage sampling	.....	.....	.....	13
Stables	.....	.....	.....	3
Miscellaneous, accumulations, animals, A.R.P., etc.	284

2,725

Visits in connection with Council houses tenancies	510
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The following is a summary of nuisances and defects remedied during the year :—

Accumulations of offensive refuse removed	1
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Animals in an unfit state	2
Ashbins provided	125
Ceilings repaired	16
Cesspools repaired	6
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	1
Chimney flues repaired	5
Doors repaired or renewed	4
Door frames repaired or renewed	1
Drainage Systems :—	
Drains repaired or reconstructed	4
Drains cleansed	33
Gully traps repaired or renewed	2
Gully trap gratings provided	1
Soil and vent pipes provided	1
Inspection chambers repaired	1
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	19
Firegrates repaired or renewed	20
Fireplaces, brickwork and plasterwork repaired	3
Floors repaired or relaid	13
Floors, sub-floor ventilation provided	1
Rainwater downspouts repaired or renewed	14
Roofs repaired	50
Sinkstones repaired or renewed	1
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	4
Staircases repaired	1
Stoves repaired or renewed	2
Rats, premises treated	19
Verminous rooms	13
Walls, brickwork repaired or repointed	10
Walls, damp proof course inserted	3
Walls, internal plasterwork repaired	18
Washing boilers, coppers repaired or renewed	10
Water closets :—	
External structure repaired	14
Internal structure repaired	2
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	15
Flush pipes repaired or renewed	7
Basins and traps renewed	11
Seats repaired or renewed	1
Water supply, supply pipes, etc., repaired	29
Windows, woodwork of frames, sashes or sills repaired or renewed	7
Yard surfaces repaired or renewed	2
Miscellaneous	11

Infection and Disinfection.

During the year 48 cases of infectious diseases were investigated, viz :—

Scarlet Fever	6
Tuberculosis	16
Diphtheria	1
Erysipelas	2
Sonne Dysentery	23

Total 48

Included in this was the supervision of the disinfection of same.

Disinfestation.

Thirteen houses were disinfested of bed bugs during the year, and, where necessary, bedding was removed and steam disinfested.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are no milk producers within this area, but two dairymen are licensed to sell "Tuberculin Tested Milk" one to bottle same and three to sell "Pasteurised" milk.

Twenty-five persons and premises are registered for the carrying on of such business, viz :—

Dairymen .....	.....	2
Milkshops (bottle milk only) .....	.....	20
Sterilised milk (wholesale) .....	.....	3

Bakehouses.

Ten visits were made to the five bakehouses on the register ; limewashing is carried out regularly and I am pleased to report that the general cleanliness is good.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

With the co-ordination of the Ministry of Food, the intensification of the campaign against rats and mice has been accelerated, and the Council, which now has a part-time Rodent Operator, has fallen in with the Ministry's scheme for testing the sewers in the district and for surveying the district generally, with a view to eradicating the area of these vermin.

During the latter end of the year the sewers in the district were test-baited and I am pleased to report that there was no evidence of infestation at all.

It is a most satisfactory result, in view of the fact that sewers in many towns are a breeding ground for rats.

Factory Act, 1937.

Twenty-six visits and inspections were carried out during the year.

In seven instances it was necessary to draw attention to minor defects. These defects were remedied without service of formal notices.

Refuse Collection.

This service was maintained throughout the year. Three Karrier Bantam lorries of seven cubic yard capacity are used for this work, two each having one driver and four loaders. The other vehicle has an interchangeable type body for use as both a refuse collector and gully and cesspool emptier. One driver and two loaders are employed on this latter vehicle.

A weekly collection is carried out in the Urban Area and a fortnightly one in the Rural Districts. In all, 4,739 tons of refuse were disposed of by means of controlled tipping.

Street Cleansing.

This service was maintained to practically its normal level, although it was found necessary at times to withdraw labour to assist with the refuse collection.

Gully and Cesspool Emptying.

This service was carried on adequately throughout the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,
J. S. COWPLAND,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.